

OBS

Love rigid honesty
And strict observance of impartial laws. *Recommen.*
OBSERVANT. *adj.* [observant, Latin.]

1. Attentive; diligent; watchful.
These writers, which gave themselves to follow and imitate others, were observant spectators of those matters they admired. *Raleigh's History of the World.*

Wandering from clime to clime observant stray'd,
Their manners noted, and their states survey'd. *Pope.*

2. Obedient; respectful.
We are told how observant Alexander was of his master Aristotle. *Digby on the Soul, Dedicat.*

3. Respectfully attentive.
She now observant of the parting ray,
Eyes the calm sun-set of thy various day. *Pope.*

4. Meanly dutiful; submissive.
How could the most base men attain to honour but by such an observant slavish course. *Raleigh.*

OBSERVANT. *n. f.* [This word has the accent on the first syllable in *Shakespeare*.] A slavish attendant. Not in use.

These kind of knaves in this plainness,
Harbour more craft, and more corrupter ends,
Than twenty filly ducking observants
That stretch their duties nicely. *Shakefp. K. Lear.*

OBSERVATION. *n. f.* [observatio, from observe, Lat. observatio, Fr.]

1. The act of observing, noting, or remarking.
These cannot be infused by observation, because they are the rules by which men take their first apprehensions and observations of things; as the being of the rule must be before its application to the thing directed by it. *South's Sermon.*

The rules of our practice are taken from the conduct of such persons as fall within our observation. *Regerr.*

2. Notion gained by observing; note; remark; animadversion.
In matters of human prudence, we shall find the greatest advantage by making wise observations on our conduct, and of the events attending it. *Watt's Logic.*

OBSERVATOR. *n. f.* [observator, Fr. from observe, Lat.] One that observes; a remarker.

The observator of the bills of mortality, hath given us the best account of the number that late plagues have swept away. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

She may be handsome, yet be chaste, you say,—
Good observator, not so fast away. *Dryden.*

OBSERVATORY. *n. f.* [observatoire, French.] A place built for astronomical observations.

Another was found near the observatory in Greenwich Park. *Woodward on Fossils.*

To OBSERVE. *v. a.* [observare, Fr. observe, Latin.]

1. To watch; to regard attentively.
Remember, that as thine eye observes others, so art thou observed by angels and by men. *Taylor.*

2. To find by attention; to note.
If our idea of infinity be got from the power we observe in ourselves, of repeating without end our own ideas, it may be demanded why we do not attribute infinity to other ideas, as well as these of space and duration. *Locke.*

One may observe them discourse and reason pretty well, of several other things, before they can tell twenty. *Locke.*

3. To regard or keep religiously.
A night to be much observed unto the Lord, for bringing them out of Egypt. *Ex. xii. 42.*

4. To obey; to follow.
To OBSERVE. *v. n.*

1. To be attentive.
Observing men may form many judgments by the rules of similitude and proportion, where causes and effects are not entirely the same. *Watt's Logic.*

2. To make a remark.
Wherever I have found her notes to be wholly another's, which is the case in some hundreds, I have barely quoted the true proprietor, without observing upon it. *Pope's Lett.*

OBSERVER. *n. f.* [from observe.]

1. One who looks vigilantly on persons and things; close remaker.
He reads much;
He is a great observer; and he looks
Quite thro' the deeds of men. *Shakefp. Jul. Cesar.*

Angelo,
There is a kind of character in thy life,
That to th' observer doth thy history
Fully unfold. *Shakespeare's Measure for Measure.*

Careful observers may forest the hour,
By sure prognostics when to dread a show'r. *Swift.*

2. One who looks on; the beholder.
If a slow pac'd star had stol'n away,
From the observer's marking, he might stay
Three hundred years to see't again. *Dante.*

Company, he thinks, lessens the flame of vice, by sharing it; and therefore, if he cannot wholly avoid the eye of the observer, he hopes to distract it at least by a multiplicity of objects. *South's Sermons.*

3. One who keeps any law or custom or practice.
Many nations are superstitious, and diligent observers of old customs, which they receive by continual tradition from their parents, by recording of their bards and chronicles. *Spenser on Ireland.*

The king after the victory, as one that had been bred under a devout mother, and was in his nature a great observer of religious forms, caused Te Deum to be solemnly sung in the presence of the whole army upon the place. *Prim.*

He was so strict an observer of his word, that no consideration whatever could make him break it. *Prim.*

Himself often read useful discourses to his servants on the Lord's day, of which he was always a very strict and solemn observer. *Atterbury's Sermon.*

OBSERVINGLY. *adv.* [from observing.] Attentively; carefully.
There is some soul of goodness in things evil,
Would men observingly distil it out. *Shakefp. Henry V.*

OBSERVION. *n. f.* [observio, Latin.]

1. The act of believing.
The first attack of Satan, antecedent to possession. *Dryden's Juvenal Ded.*

OBSERVION. *adj.* [observialis, Lat.] Belonging to a siege. *Dial.*

OBSOLETE. *adj.* [obsoletus, Lat.] Worn out of use; disused; unfashionable.

Obsolete words may be laudably revived, when either they are more founding, or more significant than those in practice. *Dryden's Juvenal Ded.*

What if there be an old dormant statute or two against him, are they not now obsolete? *Swift.*

OBSOLETNESS. *n. f.* [from obsolete.] State of being worn out of use; unfashionableness.

OBSOLETE. *n. f.* [obsoletus, Fr. obsoletum, Lat.] Something opposed; hindrance; obstruction.

Conscience is a blushing shame-fac'd spirit,
That mutinies in a man's bosom: it fills
One full of obstacles. *Shakespeare's Rich. III.*

If all obstacles were cut away,
And that my path were even to the crown,
As the ripe reverence and due of birth. *Shakefp. R. III.*

Disparity in age seems a greater obstacle to an intimate friendship than inequality of fortune. For the humours, business, and diversions, of young and old, are generally very different. *Collier on Friendship.*

Some conjectures about the formation of land-floods, the origin of mountains and islands, I am obliged to look into that they may not remain as obstacles to the less skillful. *Woodward, Nat. Hist.*

What more natural and usual obstacle to those who take voyages, than winds and storms. *Pope.*

OBSERVATION. *n. f.* [from observatio, Lat.] The office of a midwife.

OBSERVATION. *adj.* [from observatio, Lat.] Midwifery; besetting a midwife; doing the midwife's office.

There all the learn'd shall at the labour stand,
And Douglas lend his soft observatory hand. *Dunciad, b. iv.*

OBSERVATION. *n. f.* [observatio, Fr. observatio, Lat. from observare.] Stubbomness; contumacy; pertinacy; peristy.

Chusing rather to use all extremities, which might drive men to desperate obstinacy, than to apply moderate remedies. *King Charles.*

Most writers use their words loosely and uncertainly, and do not make plain and clear deductions of words one from another, which were not difficult to do, did they not find it convenient to shelter their ignorance, or obstinacy, under the obscurity of their terms. *Locke.*

What crops of wit and honesty appear,
From spleen, from obstinacy, hate or fear. *Pope's Ep.*

OBSERVATION. *adj.* [obstinatus, Lat.] Stubbom; contumacious; fixed in resolution. Absolutely used, it has an ill sense; but relatively, it is neutral.

The queen is obstinate,
Stubborn to justice, apt t' accuse it, and
Disdainful to be try'd by't. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*

Yield,
Except you mean with obstinate repulse,
To lay your sov'reign. *Shakefp.*

I have known great cures done by obstinate resolutions of drinking no wine. *Tempest.*

Her father did not fail to find
In all she spoke, the greatness of her mind;
Yet thought she was not obstinate to die,
Nor deem'd the death she promis'd was so nigh. *Dryden.*

Look on Simo's mate;
No asfs so meek, no asfs so obstinate. *Pope's Ep. ii.*

OBSERVATION. *adv.* [from obstinate.] Stubbomly; inflexibly; with unshaken determination.

Pembroke abhorred the war as obstinately, as he loved hunting and hawking. *Clarendon, b. iii.*

A Greek made himself their preys,
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3. One who keeps any law or custom or practice.
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Inflexible

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Inflexible to ill, and obstinately just. *Addison.*
My spouse maintains her royal trust,
Tho' tempted chaste, and obstinately just. *Pope.*

OBTINATENESS. *n. f.* [from obstinate.] Stubbomness.

OBTINATION. *n. f.* [from obstinatio, Lat.] The act of stopping up any passage.

OBTREPEROUS. *adj.* [obtreperus, Lat.] Loud; clamorous; noisy; turbulent; vociferous.

These obtreperous peepicks are the bane of divinity, who are so full of the spirit of contradiction, that they raise daily new disputes. *Israel's Vocal Forest.*

These obtreperous villains shout, and know not for what they make a noise. *Dryden.*

The players do not only connive at his obtreperous appropriation, but repair at their own cost whatever damages he makes. *Addison's Spectator, N^o. 235.*

OBTREPEROUSLY. *adv.* [from obtreperus.] Loudly; clamorously; noisily.

OBTREPEROUSNESS. *n. f.* [from obtreperus.] Loudness; clamour; noise; turbulence.

OBTRECTION. *n. f.* [from obtrectus, Latin.] Obligation; bond.

He hath full right t' exempt
Whom so it pleases him by choice,
From national obtrection. *Milton's Agonistes.*

To OBSTRUCT. *v. a.* [obstruo, Lat.]

1. To hinder; to be in the way of; to block up; to bar.
He them beholding, soon
Comes down to see their city, ere the tow'r
Obstruct Heav'n's tow'rs. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

2. To oppose; to retard.
Fat people are most subject to weakness in fevers, because the fat, melted by the feverish heat, obstructs the small canals. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

OBSTRUCTER. *n. f.* [from obstru.] One that hinders or opposes.

OBSTRUCTION. *n. f.* [obstructio, Lat. obstruere, Fr. from obstruere.]

1. Hindrance; difficulty.
Sure God by these discoveries did design,
That his clear light thro' all the world should shine;
But the obstruction from that discord springs,
The prince of darkness makes 'twixt Christian kings. *Dent.*

2. Obstacle; impediment; that which hinders.
All obstructions in parliament, that is, all freedom in differing in votes, and debating matters with reason and candour, must be taken away. *King Charles.*

In his winter quarters the king expected to meet with all the obstructions and difficulties his enraged enemies could lay in his way. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Whenever a popular assembly free from obstructions, and already possessed of more power than an equal balance will allow, shall continue to think that they have not enough, I cannot see how the same causes can produce different effects among us, from what they did in Greece and Rome. *Swift.*

3. [In physics.]

The blocking up of any canal in the human body, so as to prevent the flowing of any fluid through it, on account of the increased bulk of that fluid, in proportion to the diameter of the vessel. *Quincy.*

4. In *Shakespeare* it once signifies something heaped together.
Aye but to die, and go we know not where;
To lie in cold obstruction, and to rot;
This sensible warm motion to become
A kneaded clod. *Shakespeare's Measure for Measure.*

OBSTRUCTIVE. *adj.* [obstruere, Fr. from obstruere.] Hindering; causing impediment.

Having thus separated this doctrine of God's predetermining all events from three other things confounded with it, it will now be discernible how noxious and obstructive this doctrine is to the superstruering all good life. *Hammond.*

OBSTRUCTIVE. *n. f.* Impediment; obstacle.

The second obstructive is that of the fiduciary, that faith is the only instrument of his justification, and excludes good works from contributing anything toward it. *Hammond.*

OBSTRUCTIVE. *adj.* [obstruere, Lat.] Hindering; blocking up.

OBSTUPESCENCE. *n. f.* [obstupescere, Latin.] The act of inducing stupidity, or interruption of the mental powers.